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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Please amend claims 21-42 and add new claims 43-51 as set forth below:

1-20. (canceled)

1        21. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for settlement of charges

2        for Internet network connection services, comprising:

3        receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a

4        user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet

5        service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently

6        from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an

7        account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the

8        home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local

9        Internet service provider;

10        receiving, from a local service provider, accounting records of connection service

11        usage of the local service provider's network, operated independently from a

12        home service provider's network, by a user belonging to a home service

13        provider, the user connecting from the local service provider's network;

14        filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;

15        collecting the accounting records for a period of time;

16        generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and

17        transmitting the report of service usage to the home Internet service provider over the

18        Internet.

1        22. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21, wherein generating a report of service

3 usage for the period of time comprises:

4                categorizing the accounting records by the home Internet service provider; and

5                aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

1        23. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 wherein generating a report of service usage

3 for the period of time comprises:

4                categorizing the accounting records by the local Internet service provider; and

5                aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

1        24. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 22, further comprising:

3                categorizing the accounting records by the user.

1        25. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

5 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 23, further comprising:

6                categorizing the accounting records by the user.

1        26. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

2 ~~charges for network connection services~~ of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to

3 remove erroneous data comprises:

4                removing duplicate records.

27. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of  
s for network connection services of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to  
e erroneous data comprises:

removing irrelevant data from the accounting records.

28. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

~~charges for network connection services of claim 21 further comprising:~~

multiplying the time period the user was provided service by the local Internet service provider by a rate corresponding to a rate negotiated by the user's home Internet service provider.

29. (currently amended) The computer implemented method ~~for settlement of~~

charges for network connection services of claim 21 further comprising:

categorizing the time the user was provided service by geographic location; and multiplying the time in each geographic location by a rate corresponding to charges for service in each geographic location for the user's home Internet service provider.

30. (currently amended) The computer implemented method for settlement of

~~charges for network connection services of claim 21, further comprising:~~

categorizing the time period the user was provided service by the local Internet service provider; and

multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local Internet service

provider by a rate corresponding to charges for using the local Internet service provider for the user's home Internet service provider.

1       31. (currently amended) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet

2       network connection services comprising:

3       a loader for receiving accounting records from a local service provider;

4       a loader for receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting  
5       records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local  
6       Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated  
7       independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not  
8       having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an  
9       account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet  
10       via the local Internet service provider;

11       a filter, coupled to the loader, to generate filtered accounting records by removing

12       erroneous data from the accounting records received by the loader; and

13       a reporting module, coupled to the filter, for generating reports from the filtered

14       accounting records to be sent to the home Internet service provider over the

15       Internet a home service provider.

1       32. (currently amended) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet

2       network connection services comprising:

3       a loader for receiving accounting records from a local service provider and placing  
4       the raw accounting records in a raw records database;

5       a loader for receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, raw  
6       accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network  
7       of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider  
8       operated independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the  
9       user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having

an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider;

a raw records database, coupled to the loader, for storing the raw accounting records;

a filter, coupled to the raw records database, to generate filtered accounting records

by removing erroneous data from the raw accounting records stored in the raw records database received by the loader; and

a roaming history database, coupled to the filter, for storing the filtered accounting records; and

a reporting module, coupled to the roaming history database, for generating reports from the filtered accounting records to be sent to the home Internet service provider over the Internet ~~a home service provider~~.

33. (currently amended) The central settlement server for settling charges for

2 **network-connection services** of claim 31, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

34. (currently amended) The central settlement server for settling charges for-

2 ~~network-connection-services~~ of claim 31, wherein the loader further comprises:

a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a

4 predetermined format.

35. (currently amended) The central settlement server for settling charges for

2 ~~network connection services~~ of claim 31, wherein the filter further comprises:

a means for removing duplicate records.

36. (currently amended) The central settlement server for settling charges for-

2 network connection services of claim 32, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

3 a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

1 37. (currently amended) The central settlement server for settling charges for

2 network connection services of claim 32, wherein the loader further comprises:

3 a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a  
4 predetermined format.

1 38. (currently amended) The central settlement server for settling charges for

2 network connection services of claim 32, wherein the filter further comprises:

3 a means for removing duplicate records.

1 39. (currently amended) Computer readable storage device having computer readable

2 code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to

3 perform a method for settlement of charges for Internet network connection services comprising:

4 receiving, from a local service provider, accounting records of connection service  
5 usage of the local service provider's network, operated independently from a  
6 home service provider's network, by a user belonging to a home service  
7 provider, the user connecting from the local service provider's network;

8 receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a  
9 user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet  
10 service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently  
11 from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an  
12 account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the  
13 home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local  
14 Internet service provider;

15 filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;

16 collecting the accounting records for a period of time;  
17 generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and  
18 transmitting the aggregated accounting records to the home Internet service provider  
19 over the Internet.

1 40. (currently amended) The computer readable storage device of claim 39 having  
2 ~~computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or~~  
3 ~~more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services~~  
4 ~~of claim 38, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:~~  
5 categorizing the accounting records by the home Internet service provider; and  
6 aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

1 41. (currently amended) The computer readable storage device of claim 39 having  
2 ~~computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or~~  
3 ~~more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services~~  
4 ~~of claim 38, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:~~  
5 categorizing the accounting records by the local Internet service provider; and  
6 aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

1 42. (currently amended) The computer readable storage device of claim 39 having  
2 ~~computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or~~  
3 ~~more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services~~  
4 ~~of claim 38, further comprising:~~  
5 multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local Internet service  
6 provider by a rate corresponding to the rate negotiated by the user's home  
7 Internet service provider.

1       43. (new) A computer implemented method for settlement of charges for Internet  
2 connection services, the method comprising:

3           receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a  
4           user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet  
5           service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently  
6           from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an  
7           account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the  
8           home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local  
9           Internet service provider;

10           generating a service usage report based upon the received accounting records; and  
11           transmitting the service usage report to the home Internet service provider over the  
12           Internet.

1       44. (new) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the accounting  
2 records are received from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User  
3 Datagram Protocol (UDP).

1       45. (new) The computer implemented method of claim 43, wherein the service usage  
2 report is transmitted to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer  
3 Protocol (FTP).

1       46. (new) A central settlement server for settling charges for Internet connection  
2 services, the central settlement server comprising:  
3           a loader for receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting  
4           records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local  
5           Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated

independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider; and

a reporting module for generating service usage reports from the received accounting records and transmitting the service usage reports to the local Internet service provider over the Internet.

47. (new) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the loader receives the  
settlement records from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User  
Datagram Protocol (UDP).

48. (new) The central settlement server of claim 46, wherein the reporting module emits the service usage reports to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using transfer Protocol (FTP).

49. (new) A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and  
designed to cause a computer to perform a method for settlement of charges for Internet  
connection services, the method comprising:

receiving, from a local Internet service provider over Internet, accounting records of a user's Internet connection service usage of a network of the local Internet service provider, the local Internet service provider operated independently from a home Internet service provider of the user, the user not having an account with the local Internet service provider but having an account with the home Internet service provider and connecting to the Internet via the local Internet service provider;

11 generating a service usage report based upon the received accounting records; and  
12 transmitting the service usage report to the home Internet service provider over the  
13 Internet.

1 50. (new) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the accounting  
2 records are received from the local Internet service provider over the Internet using User  
3 Datagram Protocol (UDP).

1 51. (new) The computer program product of claim 49, wherein the service usage  
2 report is transmitted to the home Internet service provider over the Internet using File Transfer  
3 Protocol (FTP).